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Ken Frampton  
Editor  
The Parks Journal  
2124 Harlem Road  
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Dear Mr. Frampton:

As an American citizen, I am fed up with what has become the, "American Way" of handling problems. You start out with the American population not taking responsibility for their own actions. This is called the "victim syndrome." It is almost immediately followed by a bunch of phony politicians jumping in on the "politically correct" syndrome and finding a way to get votes and tax dollars with it. I am speaking directly to the current attempt to extort Billions of dollars from the tobacco industry.

First of all, anyone who thinks that smoking tobacco products have absolutely no health risks is too stupid to listen to. And then to say that the reason they smoked is because of all of the advertising they have been bombarded with as a child, is adding idiot to stupid. I guess the same reasoning can be used with the increasing use of cocaine. Just think, if the Colombian drug cartel didn't do all that advertising and pay retailers to put self-service displays on their counters, none of our children would use illegal drugs. Lets get real!

Now enter the phony politicians (pardon the redundancy). I love the quote from several politicians, "*We are going to bring the tobacco companies to their knees.*" This of course will be accomplished with the largest tax increase in American history. This makes me want to stand up and scream, "*Hay, where is your head, it is the American population you are taxing. We are the ones being brought to our knees.*" Unfortunately, Americans have gotten to a point where they do not care about an injustice to only 25% of the adult population. Until they are being abused themselves, its OK.

What is really frightening, is that this mentality is beginning to spread to other consumer products. Some wacko Ph.D. is now proposing a, "Twinkie" tax to get back health care costs from people who eat foods high in fat and

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cholesterol. There have even been proposals to make it illegal to use a cell phone in a car. When will it end?

People need to take responsibility for their own actions, and politicians need to stop trying to find new ways to tax our hard earned money to set up new and bigger, self serving, government programs.

Sincerely,

  
Rory O'Rourke

PS I would like to have my letter published

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